[Shri H. R. Bhardwaj]

Commission. The Election Commission has applied its mind and then our department, the legislative department, will answer these questions and we will get back to the Leaders of Opposition because in the spirit of harmony these things will be discussed and this one sugegstion of disqualification...

5.00 P.M.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): May I ask one question? He referred to the delimitation just now. That has got to be done, according to me. I am glad he said it. I would like him to enlighten me whether in this, he will also agree for rotation of reserved constituencies.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Now the time is over.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: So far as delimiatation is concerned, it is under consideration. I don't know whether rotation and other things are there. We are giving you all these things. I hope Dhabeji will withdraw it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): Further consideration of this Bill moved by Shri Dhabe will be taken up at the next non-official business day.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: I will just take a minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU): We cannot extend the time further. Now, statement by Shri K. R .Narayanan.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Attack in Lahore by some Canadian Sikhs on the Indian Diplomats.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Sir,

I regret to inform the House that two senior diplomats of the Indian Embassy in Islamabad, Counsellor B. Jain and First Secretary, K.K. Khanna, were attacked by some Canadian Sikhs within the Dehra Sahib Gurudwara Complex in Lahore on November 26, 1985 at 1430 hrs (local time). The two officers had gone to Lahore to assist in the transportation of the body to India of an Indian pilgrim who Both the officers sustained head injuries and were admited to a Lahore hosptial. They are now out of danger. On hearing of the attack our Ambassador in Pakistan visited the victims in the hospital in Lahore.

The serious concern of the Government of India over this incident was conveyed to the Pakistan Government on different occasions both in Islamabad and Delhi. Our Ambassador in Pakistan had been in touch with both the Pakistan Foreign Office and the Provincial authorities in Lahore. Yesterday, the Ambassador of Pakistan was called and told by the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of our serious concern, distress and disappointment over the incident. It was impressed upon the Pakistan Government that the safety and security of Indian diplomats, officials and pilgrims in Pakistan are the responsibility of that Government and that immediate measures should be taken to apprehend and punish the culprits. The House may recall that the assailants of an Indian official at the Gurudwara in Lahore on November 10, last year have neither been prosecuted nor punished so far. Such acts have only encouraged the extremist elements. It is unfortunate that a handful of miscreants from other countries have been allowed to indulge in anti-Indian activities.

In response to our demarche the Pakistan Government have now informed us that six persons involved in the attack on the Indian diplomats have been arrested. We expect that appropriate punishment will be speedily meted out to the assailants and strong measures will be taken by the Pakistan Government to prevent such criminal acts against Indian diplomats and officials in future.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the incident of beating up of our diplomats has shocked the whole nation. It is noteworthy that the assailants were arrested two days after the incident on Government of India's intervention, after they had been allowed free movement both at Lahore and Nankana Sahib, after raising pro-Khalistan slogans during the traditional procession. Sir, a law of jungle prevails in Pakistan today. They had not taken any precautions although there was an attack on an Indian official on November 10 last year. The culprits have neither been prosecuted nor punished so far. The trial of the hijackers is still going on. The opportunity is being used only for propaganda against India. All this lead to the suspicion that there is complicity of Pakistan. Going by past experience, I do not share the expectation that Pakistan will mete out proper punishment to the culprits.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

Madam, my question is, will the External Affairs Minister take up this question at the highest level directly, preferably with the Pakistan Foreign Minister to seek a firm guarantee that our diplomats will be safe in future and that such incidents will not be allowed to take place? Has any assurance been given in this regard by Pakistan during the exchange the Ministry had and what remedial steps the Government of India have in mind to prevent the repetition of such incidents?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन, यह घटना बड़ी ही दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण थी जितनी इसकी निन्दा की जाए, वह कम है । जैसा कि वक्तव्य में बताया गया है, गत वर्ष भी 10 नवम्बर को इसी तरह की घटना हुई थी लेकिन दोषी जो लोग थे उनको गिरफ्तार नहीं किया गया, उनके ऊपर कोई मुकदमा नहीं चलाया गया । इस वर्ष भी 26 तारीख को यह घटना हुई और जो कैनिडियन ओरिजन के सिक्ख हैं, जो 6 सिक्स इस अपराध में शामिल हैं, उनको तत्काल गिरफ्तार नहीं किया गया । उनको स्वच्छंद होकर दो तीन दिन तक बाहर टहलने दिया गया । उसके बाद उनको गिरफ्तार किया गया । अभी भी उनके ऊपर कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई, जैसा कि अभी बताया गया है । मैं सरकार से सिर्फ यही कहना चाहता हूं कि इस सिलसिले में भारत सरकार की ओर से जोर लगाया जाना चाहिए पाकिस्तान सरकार के ऊपर दबाव डाला जाना चाहिए कि जो कैनेडियन सिक्ख हैं, जो गिरफ्तार किए गए हैं, उनके ऊपर बाकायदा मुकदमा चलाया जाए और उनको सख्त से सख्त सजा दिलाने की कोशिश की जाए ।

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam Deputy Chairman it looks as if these attacks on Indian officials and diplomats are premeditated, planned and well-calculated and, in a way, I agree with my hon. friend there that there seems to be an indirect...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Complicity of Pakistan.

SHRI M. .S GURUPADASWAMY: There seems to be complicity of Pakistan in such events, in such things. We all condemn this. The whole House condemns this kind of thing. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Pakistan has given any assurance to the Government of India that they would not allow the soil of Pakistan to be used by the extremists abroad, that their activities will be watched, that their visas will be cancelled and that firm action will be taken against them. May I know whether the hon. Minister can give us this information, whether Pakistan Government has assured him that such things will not be allowed to happen in future in Pakistan?

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, there is one fact which has not come out in the statement and which has been widely reported in both the international Press and the Indian Press, that is, every time there has been an attack on Indian officials—for example the one last year and the one which took

[Shri Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh]

place recently—it has been somebody from Pakistan who has done the identification of the officials involved, who has said that these are the officials. This time also, there was a Pakistan Sikh, eye-witness accounts say, who pointed out that these are the people...

That Sikh is conspicuous because he has been present at the trial of the hijackers, that bogus trial that is taking place in Pakistan. He has been present there at the time of the trial and he has been meeting the various hijackers. He was the man who identified these officials, these senior diplomats of the Government. I would like to know whether the Pakistan Government has been asked about this particular Sikh, whether he has been apprehended by the Pakistan authorities, whether any request has been made by the Indian Government to the Government of Pakistan asking for the apprehension of this particular individual and whether the Pakistan Government has given any assurance that they are going to take some action against this particular individual.

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): पाकिस्तान में जो इंडियन एम्बेसी के अधिकारी पर हमला किया तो हाल ही में प्रधान मंत्री और पाकिस्तान के प्रेजीडेंट की बातचीत हुई है तो क्या इस संबंध में भी कोई बातचीत हुई क्योंकि ऐसे इंसीडेंटस न होने की वजह से ही दोस्ताना सम्बन्ध रख सकते हैं वरना ऐसे दोस्ताना सम्बन्ध नहीं रह सकते। पीस पैक्ट और नोवार पैक्ट जो पाकिस्तान की तरफ से आया है उस का कोई मतलब नहीं है जब तक कि हमारे रिलेशन पाकिस्तान के साथ ठीक न हो। हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के दोस्ताना सम्बन्ध रखने के सम्बन्ध में उन्होंने कोई ठोस एश्योरेंस दिया है? जो उनके बीच बातचीत हुई तो क्या उन्होंने इन सब चीजों को मद्देनजर रखा है? ये सब बातें मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Madam Deputy Chairman, the All India Radio flashed the news that the incident had taken place at Dera Baba Nanak but later on it was revealed that the incident had occurred at Dera Baba Sahib complex at Lahore. I would like to know whether the earlier communication was received through the Indian Embassy or it was a news item and why it was wrongly broadcast. What is the actual position?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: I have not followed the question of the hon. Member, Shri Matto.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, रिपोर्ट आई है कि लास्ट ईयर भी 10 नवम्बर को भी इस तरह की घटना हुई है तो लास्ट ईयर जो घटना घटी उसको इंडियन गवर्नमेंट ने फालो-अप किया या नहीं? अगर किया तो वह कहां तक किया? यह बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: The Minister wants me to repeat the question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will ask you to repeat. Or, I will repeat it. He has asked, when the news was announced on the All India Radio it was said that the incident had occurred at Dera Baba Nanak while it happened at some other place. There was some discrepancy in the announcement of the news. Which news is correct and what is the source of your earlier communication? Did it come from the Indian Embassy or was it just a news item carried from other source?

Yes, Mr. Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): We have always tried to have the best possible relations with Pakistan but to our dismay we have not been able to receive positive response from the other side. When a Congregation as big as this took place, it is not understood whether the incident would have taken place in the absence of the law and order forces of Pakistan. So, all that I want to know from the hon. Minister is, whe-

ther we have some information that these two diplomats were assaulted in the presence of the local police of Pakistan or it was just in a secluded place.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): A very small question, Madam. I would like to know whether any official of the Pakistan Government or any Minister has visited the hospital to see the health of our two diplomats.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Members have raised several relevant questions. If I may take them in order, first of all we have made representations at the highest possible level about this particular incident. About the incident which took place on November 10, 1984, the Prime Minister himself had mentioned this to President Zia himself. About the incident which took place the other day we have represented to the Embassy here, our Ambassador in Pakistan has represented to the Foreign Office and he has tried to telephone the Governor, the Foreign Minister and even sent a message to the Minister of Labour who was in Nankana Sahib about this incident. And we shall certainly in the future take this up at the highest level at the first opportunity we get.

As regards assurances from Pakistan, we have had some assurances from them in the past that Indian officials, diplomats and pilgrims will be protected, will be given every protection by the Pakistani authorities, but unfortunately these assurances could not always be carried out in practice. That is the actual position.

As regards putting pressure on Pakistan in regard to this matter in order to stop these recurring violent attacks on our diplomats and officials, we have been putting this pressure and also using all our persuasive power at every stage. But, as you know, unfortunately things do happen, have been happening from time to time.

The hon. Member, Shri Gurupadaswamy, has mentioned about the premeditated nature of these attacks. There is no doubt that we cannot but draw the conclusion that there has been some complicity by Pakistanis in these recurring incidents. Particularly the name of one Pakistani Sikh, Sham Singh, has been mentioned. It is quite true; it is in accordance with all the information that we have that these two officials were at the Dehra Sahib Gurudwara Complex waiting for getting a death certificate for a pilgrim who died the previous day. They were pointed out as Indian diplomats by this Sham Singh and it was following this that they were assaulted by six, seven or eight we do not know the exact number —Canadian Sikhs who were present there.

Certainly there has been a great deal of neglect in regard to security arrangements for our diplomats and I think one cannot rule out the possiblity of some sort of complicity also in this matter. Whether any action has been taken against this gentleman who pointed out the Indian diplomats and also instigated the Canadian Sikhs there to attack them, we have actually in the note which our Embassy sent to the Pakistani Foreign Office specified his name and pointed out the role that he played in this mischief. We have information that after the Dehra Sahib incident, these assailants had freely gone to Nankana Sahib and they were present there when certain demonstrations took place against India and also certain inflammatory speeches were made by the extremists who caught hold of the stage at Nankana Sahib.

It was at the intervention of our Ambassadar, who had detected this gentleman in that congregation and it was on his asking the Pakistani Minister who was also there that they were arrested. So, the arrest was actually in response to our own representations and our own pretests.

SHRI MEHENDRA MOHAN MISHRA: Not at the instance of the Pakistan Government?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: They arrested them, but we represented about that, we pointed out those people. We

[Shri K. R. Narayanan]

protested that they have been allowed to move about freely after the crime they had committed. So, it was at our instance that they were arrested.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There was a report in the paper today that they are just roaming about.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Six of them are in jail. There may be two or three more involved in it, but certainly six—that is the major number of people who are involved in this incident—have actually been arrested. I think they have been arrested within a period of two days and I should say that we are glad that the Pakistan Government has taken this step of arresting them so soon. We are not awaiting what action they will take in punishing them, whether the wheels of justice will move quickly or slowly. This would be the test of their seriousness in dealing with this case.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will you demand for the injuries caused to them?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: We will demand compensation.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Thank you. And will you talk to the Pakistan Minister of External Affairs?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you have inquired. Please let him answer.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: We will talk not only to the Foreign Minister but, if necessary, to the President of Pakistan too because, as you know, the Pakistan President is due to arrive in India in December and we hope we can take up this matter and other matters pending with Pakistan at that time.

It has been pointed out by one hon. Member whether this incident should have taken place when our Prime Minister and President Zia are due to meet and whether it was not in contradiction to the offer of No-War Pact made by Pakistan. It is certainly unfortunate, regrettable, that this incident took place at a time when we have been having a continuous dialogue with Pakistan-between our Prime Minister and President Zia, at the Foreign Secretaries' level and at the Foreign Minister' level. We have been trying our best to improve our relations with Pakistan and at that time an incident like this taking place is really regretable.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: What was the response of the President of Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, let him reply.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Earlier also such incidents took place. So, overall there were some discussions about such incidents. So, what was the response of the President of Pakistan?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: For example, when the Prime Minister took up the case of the hijackers, he told the Prime Minister that the trial will take place speedily and justice will be meted out to them. In fact, I understand that the trial is at the final stage but I don't know how long it would take. He said to the Prime Minister in New York that within a few weeks the trial would be concluded.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK (Haryana): Has the honourable Minister any information about the reaction of the members of the delegation or the congregation when anti-India slogans were raised there?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Well, I do not have information as to how the others reacted. Actually, when these inflammatory speeches were made, some of them were very provocative mentioning

or instigating people to secede from India and suggesting that there should be assassinations, etc. We have heard of this kind of provocative speeches before also.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: What was their response? Did they also join in raising the slogans?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: I have no information on how the rest of the audience reacted to this. But certainly I can tell you that our information is that our own pilgrims, pilgrims from India, behaved in an exemplary manner.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very serious matter, and I am sure that the Government of India will take all necessary measures to see that it never happens again, and what best they can do, they will do.

Wish you a happy weekend.

The House stands adjourned till 11 o'clock on Monday, the 2nd of December.

The House then adjourned at twenty-six minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 2nd December, 1985.

GMGIPMRNJ—M—1393 RS.